

SA  
V. Butler  
12-56-02  
8.03

Our Case: 10346ROUS01U

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: David MacDonald DELANEY et al

Serial No: 09/270,733

Examiner: Kevin C. HARPER

Filed: 16 March 1999

Group Art Unit: 2879

Subject: VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS AND METHODS FOR THEIR  
OPERATION12-56-02  
OfficialVIA FACSIMILEThe Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
U.S.A.

Sir:

This letter responds to the Office Action that was mailed September 10, 2002.

Applicant petitions in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the due date for the present response by one month, namely to January 10, 2003. A Petition For Extension Of Time is enclosed herewith.

Please amend claims 32 and 41 as shown on the marked up copy attached hereto and captioned "Marked-up Version of Claims" As well, attached hereto is a clean version of such changes made to the claims and captioned "Clean Version of Amended Claims."

**Remarks**

As noted at page 1, lines 12-30 of the Applicants' specification, most large businesses operate LANs at several sites and interconnect these LANs using dedicated circuits leased from Carrier Network Service Providers. As explained in the Applicants' specification, the leased dedicated circuits are sized to meet the maximum bandwidth requirements of the interconnections and frequently operate below capacity making inefficient use of the Carrier Network Service Provider network.

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